

pressure reduction means for reducing the pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system until the detected pressure becomes equal to a first predetermined negative pressure, by introducing negative pressure from the intake system;

negative pressure introduction means for further reducing the pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system until the detected pressure becomes equal to a second predetermined negative pressure lower than said first predetermined negative pressure, by introducing the negative pressure from the intake system under predetermined conditions after the pressure reduction by said pressure reduction means; and

leakage determination means for determining that there is a leak in the evaporative fuel processing system when the detected pressure detected during the introduction of the negative pressure from the intake system by said negative pressure introduction means is higher than a predetermined leakage reference value.

4. (Amended) A leakage determination method for an evaporative fuel processing system that causes a canister to absorb evaporative fuel generated from a fuel tank and supplies the evaporative fuel absorbed in the canister to an intake system of an internal combustion engine,

the leakage determination method comprising:

a pressure detection step of detecting pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system;

a pressure reduction step of reducing the pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system until the detected pressure becomes equal to a first predetermined negative pressure, by introducing negative pressure from the intake system;

a negative pressure introduction step of further reducing the pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system until the detected pressure becomes equal to a second predetermined negative pressure lower than said first predetermined negative pressure, by introducing the negative pressure from the intake system under predetermined conditions after the pressure reduction at the pressure reduction step; and

a leakage determination step of determining that there is a leak in the evaporative fuel processing system when the detected pressure detected during the introduction of the negative pressure from the intake system is higher than a predetermined leakage